

Appln No. 09/483,315
Amdt date November 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of May 13, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Introduction

In the Office action dated May 13, 2003, all of the pending claims in the above referenced application were rejected. Claims 1 - 6, 8, 15 - 27, 30 - 46, 50 - 54, 56 - 58 and 60 - 72 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,105,060 to Rothblatt (the Rothblatt patent). The remaining claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious in light of the combination of the Rothblatt patent and U.S. Patent 6,327,570 to Stevens.

Summary of prior art

The Rothblatt patent teaches a system where significant amounts of data are transmitted from a general purpose node to a portable access unit, but very limited amounts of data are transmitted from the portable access unit to the general purpose node. The following excerpt from the Rothblatt patent illustrates this point (Col 1: Line 62 - Col 2: Line 3):

The global, portable Internet service system 10 therefore is advantageous because it can download relatively large amounts of data from an Internet service provider, for example, to a user terminal 22 efficiently and cost effectively using the satellite direct radio broadcast system, as well as transmit relatively small amounts of data such as backhaul data

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(e.g. menu selections) from a user terminal 22 to the Internet service provider via the LEO satellite link.

The Stevens patent is relied upon for the teaching of a "personal business service system and method wherein a wireless communication unit including a microphone and digital camera barcode or other sensor devices."

Summary of amendments

In response to the Office action, claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3, claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, claim 23 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 25, claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form and claim 39 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 57. In addition, numerous claims have been cancelled.

The amended claims and the newly added claims require that the portable access unit have the capability to transmit more than backhaul data. These claims require that the portable access unit be capable of transmitting video information to the general purpose node. In addition, the amended claims require that "a user command from the portable access unit is executed by the media device separate from the portable access unit." Applicants submit that the amended claims are patentable, as the prior art does not teach this claimed combination.

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Overview of newly added claims

In addition to amending the claims, new claims 76 - 95 that relate to the transmission of video by the portable access units have been added. The newly added claims require that the portable access unit include a codec "configured to convert real-time information encoded in the first video format to a third video format and to convert real-time video information encoded in the third video format into the second video format" (see claim 76).

The limitations in claim 76 are generally supported by the specification of the above referenced application. However, specific support can be found on pages 10 and 11:

The codec accepts analog or digital audio and video (i.e. NTSC or VGA), compresses this input, and multiplexes the compressed data with an external data stream. The preferred industry standards are ITU H.263 based video, ITU G.722 based audio, and ITU H.221 based multiplexing

. . . .

The audio/video codec 200 portion of the portable access unit 100 - 100a may further comprise video input and output ports, audio input and output ports, data input and output ports. The above-mentioned multimedia processor chip of the codec can format data

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retrieved through the general purpose node. The codec can be used for packaging signals for data compression and decompression for transmission. Exemplary multimedia processors for performing such data formatting include the 29 VCPEX chip by 8x8 Inc. of Santa Clara, California or digital signal processing chips by Texas Instruments and others. The audio/video codec 200 further comprises a field programmable gate array, electrically programmable read-only memory and random access memory for processing and packaging or formatting signals for compression and decompression.

Applicants submit that the newly added claims are patentable as the prior art fails to teach the claimed combinations.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the amendments and the newly added claims place the application in condition for allowance and request the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance. If Applicant's counsel can be of assistance, please contact them at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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Limited Recognition Under 37 CFR § 10.9(b)
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